

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 TAR-01 TRSE-00 CPR-01 /023 W

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R 132100Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5100

UNCLAS ASUNCION 2254

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, PA

SUBJECT: NEW CUSTOMS DUTIES

REF: A) ASUNCION 1832; B) STATE 135964

1. AS STATED REFTL (A), EMBASSY DELIVERED
DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON MAY 16 TO PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN
MINISTRY REQUESTING SUSPENSION OF SUBJECT CUSTOMS
CHARGES.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, A JOINT DIPLOMATIC NOTE WAS PREPARED,
USING EMBASSY'S NOTE AS MODEL, BY DIPLOMATIC CORPS.
ON MAY 21. PAPAL NUNCIO ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADORS
OF GERMANY AND UNITED STATES CALLED ON UNDERSECRETARY
OF FOREIGN RELATIONS NOGUES, AND PRESENTED NOTE.
NOGUES PROMISED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AND SAID HE
WOULD PERSONALLY CALL UNDER SECRETARY OF FINANCE.

3. EMBASSY CHECKED ON DAILY BASIS WITH DG CUSTOMS
TO DETERMINE IF HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO
SUSPEND APPLICATION OF THE TAXES IN QUESTION AND
A FEW DAYS AGO EMBASSY WAS INFORMED THAT
INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED NOT, REPEAT NOT,
TO APPLY NEW CUSTOMS CHARGES TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.
HOWEVER, UPON FURTHER INQUIRY IT WAS LEARNED THAT
THE PROMISED CANCELLATION OF STORAGE CHARGES FOR
GOODS HELD PENDING RESOLUTION OF CUSTOMS TAX MATTER
HAD NOT YET TAKEN PLACE. AMBASSADOR AND PAPAL
NUNCIO SEPARATELY APPROACHED UNDER SECRETARY OF
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FOREIGN RELATIONS AGAIN, AFTER SOME DELAY AND

NUMEROUS PHONE CALLS, EMBASSY WAS INFORMED THAT STORAGE CHARGES WOULD BE CANCELLED FOR THOSE ITEMS REFERRED TO ABOVE.

4. AS OF FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 13, GOODS HELD IN CUSTOMS WAREHOUSED IN THE PORT OF ASUNCION WERE BEING RELEASED WITHOUT PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS TAXES OR STORAGE CHARGES AND WE EXPECT THAT AIRPORT WILL RECEIVE SAME INSTRUCTIONS JUNE 16.

5. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AND ESPECIALLY THE IMPLIED WILLINGNESS CONTAINED PARA 3, REFTEL B, TO TAKE MEASURES TO WITHDRAW CUSTOMS FREE ENTRY PRIVILEGES ENJOYED BY GOP IN THE U.S., WHICH MIGHT BE MOST HELPFUL SHOULD SIMILARY PROBLEM CROP UP AGAIN.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
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